

Two Local Shops Closing

By ADAM SWIFT

Two established local businesses are closing their doors this month.

Video Scene opened in the A&P Plaza in 1986 and the framing and print store Artica has been in business for a decade.

The owners of both stores said their businesses were victims of changing economic times.

"The retail business has been way down," said Artica owner Marcie Clough. "I just couldn't justify keeping it open."

While she will be shutting down the retail operation on Depot Street, Clough said she will be keeping the commercial framing side of her business going.

Clough said there just hasn't been the retail business to justify paying the higher retail rents for her store.

The tough economic turns did hurt her business, she said.

"With the economic downturn, there isn't as much disposable income," Clough said.

At Artica, Clough was a supporter of Duxbury's varied art scene, often offering prints of Duxbury works and selling tickets to local arts events in addition to providing framing services.

At Video Scene, Ken and

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Mall order rental companies like Netflix are blamed for the demise of local video rental stores. Video Scene's doors are expected to close for good by the end of the week.

Two Stores Depart Hall's Corner

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Carol Driscoll were also a visible part of the community, but Ken said the loss of a supermarket in the A&P plaza for four years was one of several reasons why his store couldn't make it any more.

"The fact is, we're no longer a viable business," said Driscoll. "I think the fact that we did not have a supermarket for more than four years forced a lot of people in the area to go out of town to do their shopping."

Driscoll said his businesses have had the most success in plazas where there has been an open grocery store.

Although Foodie's opened in the plaza at the end of last year, Driscoll said it wasn't enough to change some other factors that have hurt the video rental market.

"Even though Foodie's came in, a lot of people had changed their habits when it comes to how they get or watch their movies," Driscoll said.

While the video store was once the culprit blamed for bringing an end to the movie theater, a number of factors over the years have hurt the video store, from the cheap prices to buy DVDs to the advent of mail order rental companies like Netflix, Driscoll said.

Driscoll said he had been thinking about closing the Duxbury store for some time, but decided to stay open for the opening of Foodie's to see if he got back a significant portion of his business. After looking at the books from the first quarter of the year, Driscoll said the numbers weren't there.

Driscoll said he has no big plans after the store closes, although he and his wife still own a store in Florida and work there during the winter.

"We used to have seven stores," he said. "Now we just have the one."

Video Scene stopped renting movies last week and is now selling its stock on a cash-only basis.

Driscoll said he expects to close the doors for good by the end of this week.

"We're not making a big deal out of this, but it is our first store and there are a lot of memories," Driscoll said. "We've built relationships with so many people over the years."

Duxbury Business Association President Anne Antonellis said she's sorry to see the two businesses closing.

"They've been two very good businesses and we will miss them," she said.

While Artica and Video Scene are closing after years as fixtures in the Duxbury business scene, Antonellis noted that other businesses, like European Gardens on Washington Street, are coming to town.